



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION 1039

2 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois honors Illinois veterans for  
3 service in the United States Armed Services and Illinois  
4 National Guard with grants and scholarships to attend Illinois  
5 public universities and community colleges; and

6 WHEREAS, The Illinois Veteran Grant Program pays eligible  
7 tuition and certain fees for undergraduate study at any  
8 Illinois community college for Illinois residents who qualify;  
9 a qualified applicant is any member of the Armed Forces of the  
10 United States who has served at least one year of active duty  
11 and whose separation from such service has been characterized  
12 as honorable; and

13 WHEREAS, The Illinois National Guard Grant Program pays  
14 tuition and eligible fees at all Illinois community colleges; a  
15 qualified applicant must be on active status and have served  
16 for at least one year in the Illinois National Guard; and

17 WHEREAS, The MIA-POW Scholarship Program for dependents of  
18 Illinois residents declared to be missing in action or  
19 prisoners of war pays all tuition and fees at any Illinois  
20 community college; and

21 WHEREAS, The Illinois Veteran Grant Program, the Illinois  
22 National Guard Grant Program, and the MIA-POW Scholarship  
23 Program are all considered entitlement grants; thus, if the  
24 General Assembly does not fully fund these programs to cover  
25 all expenses, the community college must waive all tuition and  
26 fees on behalf of that student; and

27 WHEREAS, Illinois community colleges must raise tuition  
28 and fees in order to compensate for unfunded mandates placed  
29 upon them by the Governor's budget; and

1           WHEREAS, It is not fiscally responsible for the Governor to  
2 increase government spending while other parts of the budget  
3 continue to be underfunded; and

4           WHEREAS, The Governor's Fiscal Year 2007 proposed budget  
5 provides level funding for the Illinois Veteran Grant Program,  
6 the Illinois National Guard Grant Program, and the MIA-POW  
7 Scholarship Program, despite increasing enrollment primarily  
8 due to the Global War on Terrorism; therefore, be it

9           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
10 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
11 the community colleges of the State of Illinois are entitled to  
12 reimbursement for the costs incurred in the administration of  
13 the Illinois Veteran Grant Program, the Illinois National Guard  
14 Grant Program, and the MIA-POW Scholarship Program in the past  
15 fiscal years; and be it further

16           RESOLVED, That the Board of Higher Education and the  
17 Illinois Community College Board conduct a joint study  
18 detailing the amount of tuition and fees each community college  
19 has waived over the current and last four fiscal years to  
20 compensate for the lack of funding in the Governor's budgets  
21 for the Illinois Veteran Grant Program, the Illinois National  
22 Guard Grant Program, and the MIA-POW Scholarship Program, with  
23 a report of the findings of the joint study submitted to the  
24 General Assembly and to the Governor no later than January 1,  
25 2007; and be it further

26           RESOLVED, That the amount determined by the joint study of  
27 the Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Community  
28 College Board be the recommended amount of reimbursement to the  
29 community colleges of this State to be appropriated in Fiscal  
30 Year 2008; and be it further

31           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be

1 delivered to the Governor, the Board of Higher Education, the  
2 Illinois Community College Board, and the president of each  
3 community college of the State.